GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:212
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
SLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of Central projects is running at a slow pace as reported in `The Hindustan` dated December 05, 2007;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of such projects of the Government of India which have not been completed as per schedule; and

(d) the action taken against companies/contractors responsible for delaying the projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K.VASAN)

(a) As on 1.10.2007, out of 880 Central Sector projects costing Rs.20 crores and above presently on the monitoring system of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 298 projects are running behind schedule with respect to the revised approved schedule.

(b) To reduce these delays, the Government has taken many steps which are on-going. These inter-alia include:

(i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of projects before investment approval;

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;

(iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.

(v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;

(vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

(c) As per the latest information available with the Ministry, of the 343 projects scheduled for completion during 2007-08, 54 projects have been completed and another 251 projects are scheduled for completion by March,2008.

(d) A mechanism of Standing Committees for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns is in place in the respective ministries. These Committees have examined 30 projects and recommended system improvements for administrative delays and imposed liquidated damages for delay in supplies and delays in construction by contractors.